Message Text

SECRET

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PDEV, EGEN, RH

SUBJECT: ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND

REF: (A) STATE 304674, (B) KUWAIT 5948

1. IN LETTER DATED JAN. 2, 1977, WITH WHICH I TRANSMITTED ORIGINAL OF KISSINGER-CROSLAND LETTER OF DEC. 11, 1976 ON ZIMBABWE DEVELPMENT FUND, I REQUESTED FOREIGN MINISTER SHAIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD AL-SABAH TO PROVIDE ME WITH AN INDICATION OG GOK'S PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON THE PROPOSAL BY JAN 15. I HAVE RECEIVED NO INDICATION AS OF THIS DATE, ALTHOUGH IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT DURING THE RECENT PERIOD SHAIKH SABAH HAS BEEN TRAVELLING A GOOD PART OF THE TIME.

2. IN VIEW OF THE RATHER DISAPPOINTING TREND OF NEGOTIATIONS BEING CONDUCTED BY AMBASSADOR IVOR RICHARDS AND THE FACT THAT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IS UNLIKELY TO RESUME IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, I HAVE NOT FOLLOWED UP THIS REQUEST FOR THE GOK'S PRELIMINARY VIEWS. DURING A MEETING AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY JAN. 26 ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, MY DCM WAS PROVIDED WITH WM UNSOLICITED COMMENT THAT THE ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND PROPOSAL SEEMED TO BE PRIMARILY DESIGNED AS AN INCENTIVE TO THE WHITE MINORITY IN RHODESIA. HIS SECRET

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INTERLOCUTOR, MISS NABILIA AL-MULLA, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM ATTENDING THE RECENT UNGA SESSION, SAID THAT THE GOK WOULD WANT TO SEE WHAT SORT OF POLITICAL PROGRESS WAS MADE ON THE RHODESIAN QUESTION BEFORE GIVING ITS VIEWS ON THE ZIMBABWE DEVELPMENT FUND. DCM, OF COURSE, REMINDED HER THAT ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF SOLICITING AN EARLY REACTION FROM THOSE GOVERNMENTS CONTACTED WAS TO HELP PROMOTE POLITICAL PROGRESS

IN THIS MATTER.

3. COMMENT: I BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD SERVE NO USEFUL

PURPOSE TO PRESS THE GOK FOR A PRELIMINARY RESPONSE AT THIS TIME AND DO NOT PROPOSE TO DO SO UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE. I FEEL CERTAIN THAT MISS AL-MULLA REFLECTED THIS POSITION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON THIS QUESTION AND THAT I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO OBTAIN A POSITIVE RESPONSE AT THIS TIME. MAESTRONE

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